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NOTES AND NEWS.

REV. GEORGE S. MEAD, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died June 18, 1901, at Antigua, Guatemala, at the age of 52 years. Mr. Mead was born in Racine, Wisconsin, and received his education at Racine College, graduating in 1867. After leaving college

he spent some time in traveling in the Eastern States. Afterwards he returned to his alma mater as a teacher, remaining until 1874 or 1875, when he took charge of St. Paul's school for boys in Baltimore. Later he returned to Racine College as master of the grammar school. Here he remained until the winter of 1881, when he first visited California. At intervals during fifteen years he was head-master of Trinity School of San Francisco, and in 1899 became rector of the school.

Mr. Mead had great love for travel, which he had ample opportunity to gratify. Besides visiting Europe a number of times, he made trips to Canada, Mexico, Central America, Alaska, Hawaiian Islands, and the South Seas, and at the time of his death was spending his vacation in Guatemala.

Mr. Mead was a deacon in the Episcopal Church and a member of the California Academy of Sciences and its Section of Ornithology. While he published but little on birds, he was well informed in the literature of ornithology, and had made a special study of the Birds-of-Paradise. He was also particularly interested in the birds of New Guinea.

Mr. Mead was a just man, a man of deep sympathy, of high intellectual attainments, a successful teacher. — L. M. L.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, January 2, 1902. The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Charles J. Pennock; Vice-President, William A. Shryock; Secretary, William B. Evans; Treasurer, Stewardson Brown. During the year 1901 the average attendance was twenty-one, while forty-eight members were present at one or more meetings.

Among the papers presented were 'Economic Value of Hawks and Owls,' Samuel N. Rhoads; 'The Yellow-winged Sparrow in Eastern Pennsylvania,' Samuel Wright; 'Distribution of the Red-headed Woodpecker, Dr. Spencer Trotter; 'Observations on Summer Birds of Clinton and Potter County, Pa.' F. R. Cope, Jr.; 'Birds of the New Jersey Palisades,' S. N. Rhoads and W. B. Evans; 'Adirondack Notes,' C. J. Pennock; and 'Breeding of the Mockingbird in Eastern Pennsylvania,' W. E. Hannum and W. E. Roberts.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society was held at Augusta, Maine, November 29-30, 1901. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, William L. Flower; Vice-President, H. L. Spinney; Secretary-Treasurer, A. H. Norton; Editor, J. Merton Swain; Councillors, A. L. Lane and Ora W. Knight. Besides the transaction of business, and the presentation of the President's Address, a number of papers were read, with numerous stereopticon illustrations. The Society voted to issue a new List of Maine Birds, to be prepared by Mr. O. W. Knight, and to include a map showing the faunal areas of the State. The Seventh Annual Meeting will be held at Portland, Maine, on "the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving, 1902."

WITH the number for January, 1902, 'The Osprey' entered upon its "new series," considerably altered in appearance and typographical make-up. The January number gives a biographical sketch, with portrait, of Sir John Richardson, the Arctic explorer and naturalist, by Dr. Gill, in addition to other papers of interest and several pages of reviews. In this number the editor, Dr. Gill, begins a 'General History of Birds,' forming a separately paged 'Supplement,' to be continued in monthly installments. The January installment consists of four pages, the February installment of eight pages, part of which, that relating to the "plumage of birds and their feathers," being contributed by Dr. Hubert Lyman Clark. The February number contains a portrait and a biographical sketch of Professor Alfred Newton.

'THE CONDOR' has also donned a new dress, appearing in a new cover design, "typifying the land of the setting sun and its lordly condor"! The usual high character of its contents is well sustained, as regards not only its abundant and excellent half-tone illustrations, but the text of each number forms an important addition to current ornithological literature.

THE SECOND edition of Dr. T. S. Palmer's 'Legislation for the Protection of Birds other than Game Birds,' forming 'Bulletin No. 12, U. S. Department of 'Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey,' and originally published in June, 1900, covers the changes due to legislation during 1901, and brings the subject down to January 1, 1902. The general character of this 'Bulletin No. 12,' was set forth in some detail at the time of its first appearance (*cf.* Auk, XVII, July, 1901, pp. 314-315); in the present edition the arrangement and general scope is the same, but the changes in the laws due to new enactments have not only been duly incorporated, but a special chapter has been added on possession and sale of birds, in which references are given to the more important recent decisions regarding the constitutionality of laws restricting the sale within a State of birds captured in other States. The supreme court of the State of California has declared that "the wild game within a State belongs to the people in their collective sovereign capacity. It is not the subject of private ownership except in so far as the people may elect to make it so, and they may if they see fit, absolutely prohibit the taking of it, or traffic and commerce in it if it is deemed necessary for the protection or preservation of the public good." The same principle has been upheld in other States, and lies at the very foundation of game and bird protection. The State hence has the right to regulate the seasons during which birds may be taken and possessed, and hence may declare contraband and confiscate birds taken contrary to law; and in such case, according to the courts, the owner "*has lost nothing that belongs to him*, and there has been no taking of property without due process of law or without just compensation."